

Message Text

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47

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-10 SR-02 ORM-01 LAB-04 SIL-01

EB-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00 OPIC-03 XMB-02 FRB-03 /083 W

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O 101657Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2445

INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 1455

BUENOS AIRES AND MONTEVIDEO FOR ASST SECY ROGERS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: CI, PFOR, PINT, SHUM

SUBJECT: MARCH 11 ANNIVERSARY EVENTS

1. SUMMARY: BY ALL RIGHTS, GOC SHOULD MARK MARCH 11 ANNIVERSARY OF 18 MONTHS IN POWER WITH SOME KIND OF CEREMONY AND/OR IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT. SO FAR, HOWEVER, THERE IS NO INDICATION OF WHAT, IF ANYTHING, IS PLANNED. UPCOMING VISIT OF ASST. SEC. ROGERS, PROSPECTIVE VISIT OF SECRETARY KISSINGER, AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS MAY BE COMPLICATING FACTORS FOR GOC. END SUMMARY.

2. MARCH 11 MARKS 18 MONTHS IN POWER FOR JUNTA, THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF ISSUANCE OF ITS DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES, AND EXPIRATION DATE OF THE CURRENT 6-MONTH EXTENSION OF STATE OF SIEGE. NORMALLY, GIVEN LATIN PENCHANT FOR COMMEMORATING "HISTORIC" OCCASIONS, WE WOULD EXPECT SOME KIND OF CEREMONY AND A SPEECH BY PRESIDENT PINOCHET OR SOME OTHER TOP GOC LEADER IN WHICH IMPORTANT POLICY DECISIONS WOULD BE ANNOUNCED. YET WE HAVE SEEN NO INDICATION, EITHER THROUGH USUAL PUBLIC

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RELATIONS BUILDUP OR IN-THE-KNOW GOSSIP, THAT GOC IS PLANNING

ANY KIND OF EVENT ON THAT DATE. ONLY POSSIBLE INDICATION IS SWITCH OF ROGERS MEETING WITH PRES. PINOCHET FROM MARCH 11 TO MARCH 12.

3. THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE TALK AT START OF YEAR THAT MAJOR ANNOUNCEMENTS IN HUMAN RIGHTS FIELD COULD BE EXPECTED IN MARCH. SPECULATION INCLUDED SUCH ITEMS AS LIFTING OF CURFEW, REDUCTION IN RIGOR OF STATE OF SIEGE, ANOTHER STEP IN DETAINEE RELEASE PROGRAM, AND POSSIBLY MORE FAR-REACHING CHANGES. THIS SPECULATION HAS NEARLY DISAPPEARED IN LAST MONTH. WE HAVE GOOD REASON TO BELIEVE GOC IS RECONSIDERING POLICY TOWARD CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY, BUT THIS SEEMS AN UNLIKELY TOPIC FOR DISCLOSURE MARCH 11. CONSEQUENTLY, EVEN IF SOME KIND OF CEREMONY IS STAGED AT LAST MOMENT, IT SEEMS UNLIKELY MAJOR POLICY DECISIONS WILL BE ANNOUNCED.

4. COMPLICATING FACTOR FOR GOC MAY BE VISIT OF ASST. SEC. ROGERS, WHO ARRIVES IN CHILE ON THAT DAY, AND PROSPECTIVE VISIT OF SECRETARY KISSINGER SOME WEEKS THEREAFTER. GOC MAY FEAR THAT IF IT ANNOUNCES MAJOR POLICY DEPARTURES AT THIS TIME, ESPECIALLY IN FIELD OF HUMAN RIGHTS, THIS WILL BE INTERPRETED AS CAVING TO FOREIGN (I.E. US) PRESSURE, SOMETHING GOC LEADERS HAVE REPEATEDLY STATED THEY WOULD NOT DO. IN SIMILAR SENSE, PARIS CLUB DEBT RENEGOTIATING IS PENDING, OAS HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION AND PRELIMINARY ILO REPORTS ARE PRESENTLY SUBJECTS OF INTERNATIONAL DISCUSSION, AND VISIT OF UNHRC INVESTIGATING TEAM IS ANTICIPATED. IN SHORT, IF GOC IS ACTUALLY THINKING OF SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES IN ITS HUMAN RIGHTS PRACTICES, IT MAY WISH TO TIME THEM TO MINIMIZE THE INFERENCE THAT THEY WERE ADOPTED UNDER PRESSURE.
POPPER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: JUNTA, COMMEMORATIVE CELEBRATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975SANTIA01455
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750083-0636
From: SANTIAGO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750366/aaaachig.tel
Line Count: 92
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 MAY 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <20 MAY 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MARCH 11 ANNIVERSARY EVENTS
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, SHUM, CI
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006